

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 6, 2003 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 14-18, and 21-27 have been allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification. Claims 11, 19-20, 28, and 30 have been amended. Claims 31-38 have been added. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 10-38 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 11-13, 19, 28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Currey et al. (U.S. Patent 6,245,998). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, but have amended claims 11, 19, 28 and 30 to advance this application to allowance. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original subject matter via a continuing application.

Curry discloses a cable management assembly including a door 54. "The door 54 has a pair of horizontal slots 56, 58 along a lower edge of the door, through which slots the ferrules 50, 52 engage the door 54 for swinging movement about the axis A." Column 3, lines 58-61.

I. Claims 11-13

Claim 11 recites a cover including a cover plate having first and second opposite edges. A first pivot post having a first axis of rotation is disposed along the first edge of the cover plate. A second pivot post having a second different axis of rotation is disposed along the second opposite edge of the cover plate. As recited in claim 11, the cover plate is configured to selectively pivot about each of the first and second axes of rotation.

Curry does not disclose a cover plate that pivots about a first axis defined by a first pivot post and a second different axis defined by a second pivot post. Rather, Curry discloses a door 54 that pivots about only a single axis defined by ferrules 50, 52. At least because Curry does not meet the structural limitations of a cover plate configured to

selectively pivot about each of first and second axes of rotation, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 11 and dependent claims 12 and 13 are patentable.

II. Claim 19

Claim 19 recites a cable trough and cover assembly including a hinge pedestal having an extending body with a first end and a second end, a base portion positioned at the second end of the extending body, and receiving structure positioned at the first end of the extending body. The receiving structure defines a pocket sized to receive a pivot member of a cover plate.

Curry does not disclose a hinge pedestal having an extending body, a base portion, and receiving structure as recited in claim 19. Rather, the ferrule 50 in Curry discloses a ferrule structure 50 attached to a bracket portion, which is attached by fasteners or rivets to the front side wall 34.

In characterizing the bracket portion of the ferrule 50 as a "base", the ferrule does not include an extending body, as required by claim 19. Rather, the ferrule 50 merely includes "receiving structure" attached to "a base." In characterizing the bracket portion of the ferrule 50 as an "extending body", the ferrule does not include a base portion, as required by claim 19. Rather, the ferrule 50 merely includes "receiving structure" attached to "an extending body."

Because Curry does not teach or suggest the structural limitations as recited in claim 19, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 19 is patentable.

III. Claim 28

Claim 28 recites a cover and hinge assembly including a cover plate having first and second pivot member along first and second opposite edges. The assembly also includes a first hinge member that receives the first pivot member so that the cover plate may be rotated in a first direction, and a second hinge member that receives the second pivot member so that the cover plate may be rotated in a second opposite direction.

Curry discloses a cover 54 that may only be rotated in one direction. Because Curry does not meet the structural limitations of claim 28, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 28 is patentable.

IV. Claim 30

Claim 30 recites a cable trough and cover assembly including a cable trough having a base and two sidewalls, each of the sidewalls having a top edge. The assembly also includes a hinge member selectively positioned along the top edge. The top edges of the sidewalls define a top opening of the cable trough.

Curry does not disclose a hinge member selectively positioned along a top edge of a sidewall that defines a top opening of the cable trough. Rather, the ferrules 50, 52 are located intermediate of bottom and top edges of the side wall 34. At least because Curry does not meet the structural limitation of a hinge member positioned along a top edge defining a top opening of the cable trough, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 30 is patentable.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 20 and 29 but indicated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Examiner also allowed claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 14-18, and 21-27. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification.

Claim 33 has been added and incorporates the subject matter of objected-to claim 20 and base claim 19. Claim 34 has been added and incorporates the subject matter of objected-to claim 29 and base claim 19. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 33 and 34 are in condition for allowance.

New Claims 31-38

New claim 31 depends from claim 30. In light of the above comments regarding independent claim 30, Applicants submit that claim 31 is patentable. New claim 32 depends from claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that in light of the patentability of independent claim 1, claim 32 is also patentable.

New claims 33 and 34 correspond to objected-to claims 20 and 29, only rewritten in independent form. Applicants submit that claims 33 and 34 are patentable.

New claims 35-38 recite a cover and hinge assembly for a cable trough including hinge members. Similar to claim 1, the hinge members of claim 35 include two arms

coupled by a middle member to form a U-shaped recess for receiving a sidewall of the trough. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited art discloses a hinge member as recited in claims 35-38, and that claims 35-38 are therefore patentable.

SUMMARY

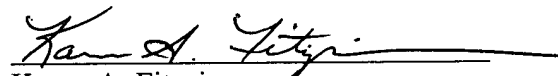
It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1-3, 5-8, and 10-38) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

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